

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ARTICLE BY KATHLEEN TELTSCH, FRONT PAGE, THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, HEADED "U.N. COUNCIL DELAYS DECISION ON VIETNAM UNTIL U.S. ELECTION."

2. FRENCH PROPOSAL TO WAIT FOLLOWS A REPORTED MOVE BY KISSINGER -- HANOI ACCEPTS POSTPONEMENT. THE SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDED TODAY TO PUT OFF CONSIDERATION OF REUNIFIED VIETNAM'S REQUEST FOR UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP UNTIL NOVEMBER, OR IN EFFECT UNTIL AFTER THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

3. THE DECISION FOLLOWED NEGOTIATIONS INITIATED BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING, WHEREUPON FRANCE OBTAINED VIETNAM'S AGREEMENT.

4. THE POSTPONEMENT SPARES THE FORD ADMINISTRATION FROM
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ANTAGONIZING VIETNAM'S MANY SUPPORTERS AMONG FOREIGN GOVERN-

MENTS BY USING THE BIG-POWER VETO TO BLOCK VIETNAM.

5. U.S. ANNOUNCES VETO PLAN. YESTERDAY IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS READY TO VETO VIETNAM BECAUSE THERE WAS "NO PROGRESS" IN GETTING A FULL ACCOUNTING OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSING SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR.

6. AT THE SAME TIME POSTPONEMENT REMOVES A POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

7. IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR WHY VIETNAM HAD AGREED SO READILY TO THE POSTPONEMENT. NOR WAS THERE ANY INDICATION HERE THAT THE AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO VIETNAM'S ADMISSION WOULD CHANGE AFTER THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2.

8. THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE COUNCIL ACTION WERE REPORTED BY DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE AND BY A FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN PARIS. A HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON, WHO REFUSED TO BE IDENTIFIED, DENIED THAT MR. KISSINGER OR THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INVOLVED.

9. FRANCE PROPOSED THE POSTPONEMENT UNDER WHAT A FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN PARIS DESCRIBED AS AN "INFORMAL AGREEMENT" BETWEEN MR. KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. THE OFFICIAL SAID MR. KISSINGER HAD RAISED THE ISSUE AT A BREAKFAST MEETING WITH MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING A WEEK AGO.

10. THE SURPRISE DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED IN A SHORT STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MANSUR RASHID KIKHA OF LIBYA, AFTER PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS BY THE 15 COUNCIL MEMBERS.

11. U.S. CITES DELAY ON MISSING MEN. MR. KIKHA SAID THAT AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE QUESTION UNTIL A DATE IN NOVEMBER IN ORDER THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT DISCUSS IT AT ITS COMING SESSION AND THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD CONSENTED.

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12. THE ASSEMBLY BEGINS ITS 31ST SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 21 BUT THE INTENTION CLEARLY WAS TO PUT OFF THE MATTER UNTIL NOVEMBER 2, WHEN IT WOULD NO LONGER HAVE A BEARING ON THE UNITED STATES ELECTION.

13. WILLIAM W. SCRANTON, THE CHIEF UNITED STATES DELEGATE, AFTER A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO VETO THE VIETNAMESE

APPLICATION BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS IN GETTING HANOI TO GIVE A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THE ALMOST 800 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSING SINCE THE VIETNAMESE WAR

14. VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES DENOUNCED THE MOVE IN STATEMENTS CHARGING THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S REAL CONCERN WAS NOT THE MISSING AMERICANS AND THEIR FAMILIES BUT THE "VOTE IN HIS ELECTION."

15. APPLICANTS MUST BE RECOMMENDED FOR ADMISSION BY A NINE-VOTE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL BUT A MEMBERSHIP REQUEST CAN BE BLOCKED BY THE NEGATIVE VOTE OF ANY OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS -- BRITAIN, FRANCE, CHINA, THE SOVIET UNION OR THE UNITED STATES;

16. THE UNITED STATES LAST YEAR USED ITS VETO TO BAR HANOI, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE 14 OTHER MEMBERS, GIVING AS ITS REASON THE COUNCIL'S REFUSAL TO EVEN CONSIDER THE LONG-PENDING APPLICATION FOR ENTRY BY SOUTH KOREA.

17. WHILE THERE WAS NO INTIMATION FROM UNITED STATES OFFICIALS WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE AFTER NOVEMBER 2, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT HANOI'S PROSPECTS WOULD BE IMPROVED IF FURTHER INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON THE MISSING AMERICANS.

18. ON SEPTEMBER 5 HANOI PROVIDED THE UNITED STATES WITH THE NAMES OF 12 AIRMEN WHO WERE LISTED AS MISSING BUT WHO THE VIETNAMESE SAID NOW WERE KILLED. THE VIETNAMESE TERMED THIS A GOODWILL GESTURE BUT THE AMERICANS RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH IN LIGHT OF THE HUNDREDS OF OTHERS STILL LISTED MISSING

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19. THE OFFICE OF THE VIETNAMESE OBSERVER HERE SAID THAT IT HAD ACQUIESCED WITH FRANCE'S SUGGESTION ABOUT POSTPONING THE MEMBERSHIP ISSUE TO SHOW ONCE AGAIN ITS GOODWILL.

20. HANOI'S WILLINGNESS NOT TO PRESS THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION AT THIS TIME WAS SEEN BY SOME HERE AS PROVIDING IT WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE A REASONABLE AND CO-OPERATIVE POLICY.

21. BY CONTRAST, THE UNITED STATES' THREAT OF A VETO, WHILE POPULAR WITH SOME AMERICAN VOTERS, WAS SEEN BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATES AS A FOREIGN POLICY BLUNDER CERTAIN TO BE EXPLOITED BY CRITICS OF THE UNITED STATES. (END TEXT)
ROBINSON

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